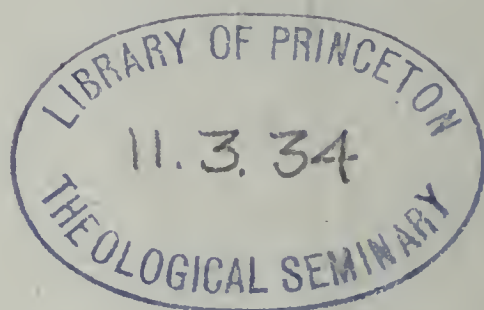


Flemington Methodist
Episcopal Church
Flemington, New Jersey

One Hundredth Anniversary
1823-1923

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One

Hundred

Years



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One Hundredth Anniversary

OF THE

Flemington Methodist Episcopal Church

FLEMINGTON, NEW JERSEY

1823-1923

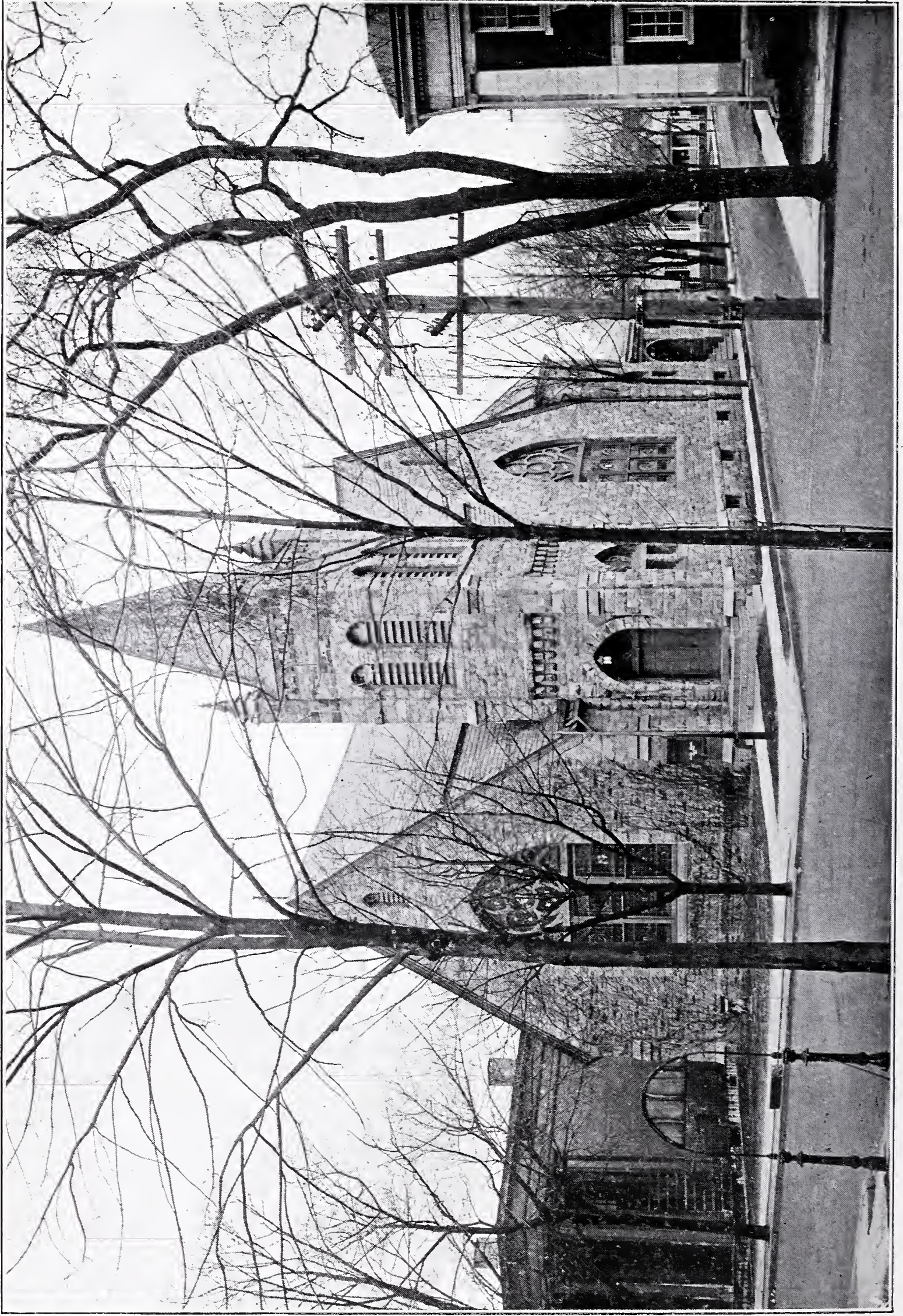


LUTHER B. WILSON, D. D., L. L. D., Bishop

JAMES H. MacDONALD, D. D., District Superintendent

ABRAM L. FRETZ, Pastor

What Hath God Wrought



Flemington Methodist Episcopal Church, dedicated February 22, 1888.

Methodism in Flemington, New Jersey

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The history of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Flemington, New Jersey, from 1822 to 1914 was written by Rev. John H. E. Shultz for a meeting of the Hunterdon County Historical Society, January 10, 1914. This is a detailed account of the formation of the Methodist Society in Flemington, and of the chief achievements of each successive pastorate. From this history, from the account given by the Rev. Austin Armstrong in the Church Record Book, and from other scattered sources, has been gleaned information used in the following condensed history, in which an attempt has been made to gather facts and restate them in topical arrangement, as well as to bring the history up to date.

CHURCH HOMES

The first home of the Methodists strangely enough was in the Court House, where in spite of opposition on the part of the janitress, services were held until 1824. In the spring of that year certain persons were designated by the Official Board as collectors for a building fund and total subscriptions were reported to the amount of \$640.18. The church, now known as the McPherson building, was ready for use in the spring of 1826. In 1861-62 one reads that the church was greatly improved and enlarged, \$4,000 being spent upon it. During the pastorate of the Rev. S. B. Rooney a new lot was purchased in the year of 1883 at a cost of \$6,000 and two years later the old property was sold and the Board had in hand in cash and paid subscriptions \$11,500 also ample unpaid subscriptions. On January 10th, 1886, the last service was held in the old church and until June, 1887, the congregation worshipped once more in the Court House. Early in June of the same year a building committee made up of William Applegate, J. P. Bodine, Dennis Hall, Samuel Cooley and George C. Pedrick, under the leadership of the pastor, the Rev. Francis A. Mason, was appointed and soon had plans ready for our present church home. The services dedicating the new edifice to the worship of God were held in June 1887. While the Rev. Austin E. Armstrong was pastor in charge, improvements were made: the church was redecorated and electric lighting installed and the lot between the church and parsonage filled in and sustained by a retaining wall. With only these changes and improvements the building stands in its wonderfully well chosen and accessible location the cause of just pride to members and friends of the congregation.

On the corner of Park and Capner streets the first parsonage was built in 1847. This was used for thirty-five years, then sold and for seven years different houses were used as the pastor's home. In 1889 the Rev. C. S. Ryman and his family moved into the present comfortable, roomy, well equipped parsonage.

EVANGELISM

The history of the Flemington Church demonstrates the fact that the church grew mainly after revivals and "extra meetings" had taken place. Soon after the Flemington Church had been made a regular appointment on the Trenton Circuit of the Philadelphia Conference (1823) the Stony Ground Camp-Meeting was held. Nearly all of those who professed conversion at this camp meeting joined the Methodist Church. In the year 1842 a series of remarkable "extra meetings" were held in this region, the revival in Flemington, resulting in thirty joining the church. Another great



The Old Church, 1826.

revival took place during the pastorate of Rev. David Walters, 1887-69: It is stated in the Presiding Elder's report of 1868 that 145 were converted. Again in 1885 Flemington is mentioned as one of the places where "a wonderful work of God was enjoyed and over one hundred souls won." Another revival blessed the church during the winter of 1888-89 when eighty-one persons were received on probation. In 1906 it is recorded that thirty souls were saved during special meetings. In 1915 Mr. Asher, the evangelist, assisted by Mr. George Rockwell the singer, held union evangelistic services in Flemington. These meetings resulted in great general good to the community and many souls were saved—78 persons were baptized in the Methodist Church, and 112 persons were received on probation. The evangelist, Dr. Sheldon of New York, came to Flemington at the request of the Rev. C. M. W. Lee, pastor in charge, during the winter of 1921; his preaching succeeded in touching the hearts of the young people who were formed into a church training class and later received, almost without loss of one, into the fellowship of the church. As a result of personal evangelism during 1922, twenty-nine came into the church. And so the heartening record runs making clear to us we read that the prosperity and progress of the church have always gone hand in hand with a great spiritual outpouring.

MEMBERSHIP AND GIVINGS

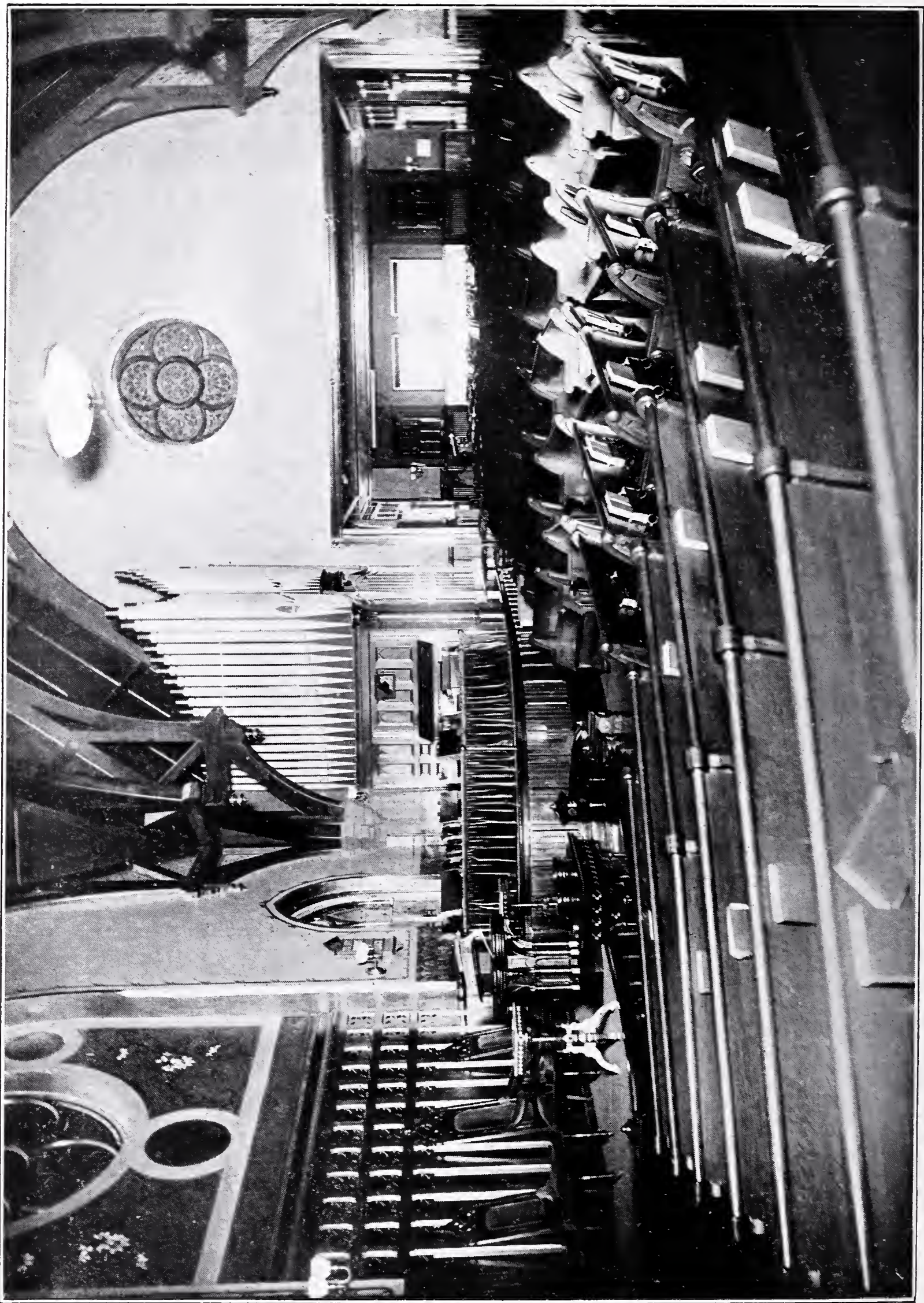
It is always of interest to compare the givings of different periods of a church's life and study the advance that has been made in the benevolent offerings as compared with the increased membership. In the year 1837 it appears that the circuit on which Flemington was placed, had been divided and the change occasioned loss in membership for the Flemington Circuit, as Mr. Shultz in his history points out: the members reported number 101 and the benevolent collections, \$19.29. A little over fifty years later after Flemington had been made a separate charge and a part of the Elizabeth District of the Newark Conference as it is now organized, the membership of the church is given as 255 and the benevolent collections as \$233.00. Very recently came a card from the District Superintendent showing the membership and amount of benevolent givings for the past year—membership 411—total benevolences, \$1,972.00. A great aid in the securing of systematic giving has been the use of the Duplex Envelopes and the Every Member Canvass. Since 1915 the spring Canvass has been regularly made. This record leads the serious reader to say in his heart "With the Lord all things are possible," for what Flemington Methodism in early days would have pronounced the impossible has through years of missionary education become an actual fact; a growth in numbers during less than 100 years of 310 and in benevolent givings of \$1,952.71.

ORGANIZATIONS

The oldest organization within the church was that of the Class Meeting which was formed at about the time that the first meetings of the Methodists were held, and had its home in the "Fleming Castle." This class continued in existence until about 1907, during the last forty years of its life being led by Brother Asher B. Stout.

Before the church was organized, a union Sunday School had been formed and eventually met in the Presbyterian Church. In 1824 the union effort was suspended and each church had its own school. Mention is made of the Sunday School as meeting in the basement of the church in 1840 and in 1848 it is stated that the school met in the gallery and had as superintendent "Brother Applegate."

The Ladies' Aid Society was organized in the early 70's, the officers being Mrs. J. P. Bodine, Mrs. David VanFleet and Mrs. A. Vandeventer. It is thought that the society met only as need for service presented itself, for no written records can be found. During the pastorate of Dr. C. S. Woodruff the "Aid" was reorganized and Mrs. Fred Bodine became president.



Interior view of present Church.

April 7, 1890, Dr. C. S. Ryman, then pastor of the church, organized a chapter of the Epworth League with 35 charter members. It was named the Ryman Chapter in honor of its founder. The first officers of the society were: President, Samuel Ewing; 1st Vice President, Miss Emma VanFleet; 2nd Vice President, F. J. Bodine; 3rd Vice President, W. H. Bodine; Secretary, C. L. H. Apgar; Treasurer, J. Sherman Cooley. In a historical paper by C. L. H. Apgar, covering a period of twelve years, it is stated that the amount raised on church debt and organ fund was \$3,111.00. Besides this money raising campaign, the League was carrying on a very active program in all branches. At a meeting May 3d, 1892, on motion of Miss Emma VanFleet, it was decided to form a Junior Epworth League and Mrs. F. J. Bodine was made president of the new organization.

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was formed November 12, 1897, with Mrs. B. F. Dewey as president. In 1902 Miss Carlton, of Elizabeth, and Miss Ham, of Cranford, came to Flemington to aid in the organization of a Home Missionary Society. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. P. C. Bascom; Vice President, Miss Ada Parse; Secretary, Mrs. Ellen Beck; Treasurer, Mrs. Lizzie Earle. It was determined to meet every three months. These two missionary societies have now become mothers of two children, the Young Woman's Missionary Society, and the Kings Heralds—Home Guards.

A Bible Class came into being December 29, 1908, during the pastorate of Dr. C. S. Woodruff. This was a mixed class at that time and took the name "Woodruff Bible Class" in honor of its teacher, Mrs. Woodruff. The growth of the class has been steady, its membership now being over one hundred, and its activities many and benevolent. In 1914 the men left the Woodruff Bible Class to form a separate organization, caring for the church ushering and other such duties.

The Children's Choir of the Methodist Church was organized in the fall of 1906 with a membership of 31 boys and girls. The Methodist Choir was immediately joined with the Presbyterian Choir—which was then 12 years old—and formed the beginning of the co-operation of the choirs which is its most valuable quality. In the spring of 1908 the first big Graduation Service was held in the Baptist Church with a class of six, assisted by three Children's Choirs. Two of the class came from this church: Dorothy Stout (Mrs. Guy Bell), and Mabel Vandeventer (Mrs. Amos Thatcher). Since then forty-four diplomas have been given choristers from this choir. These graduates as well as some splendid material of those who never had the opportunity of the Junior Choir, form our present Senior Choir.



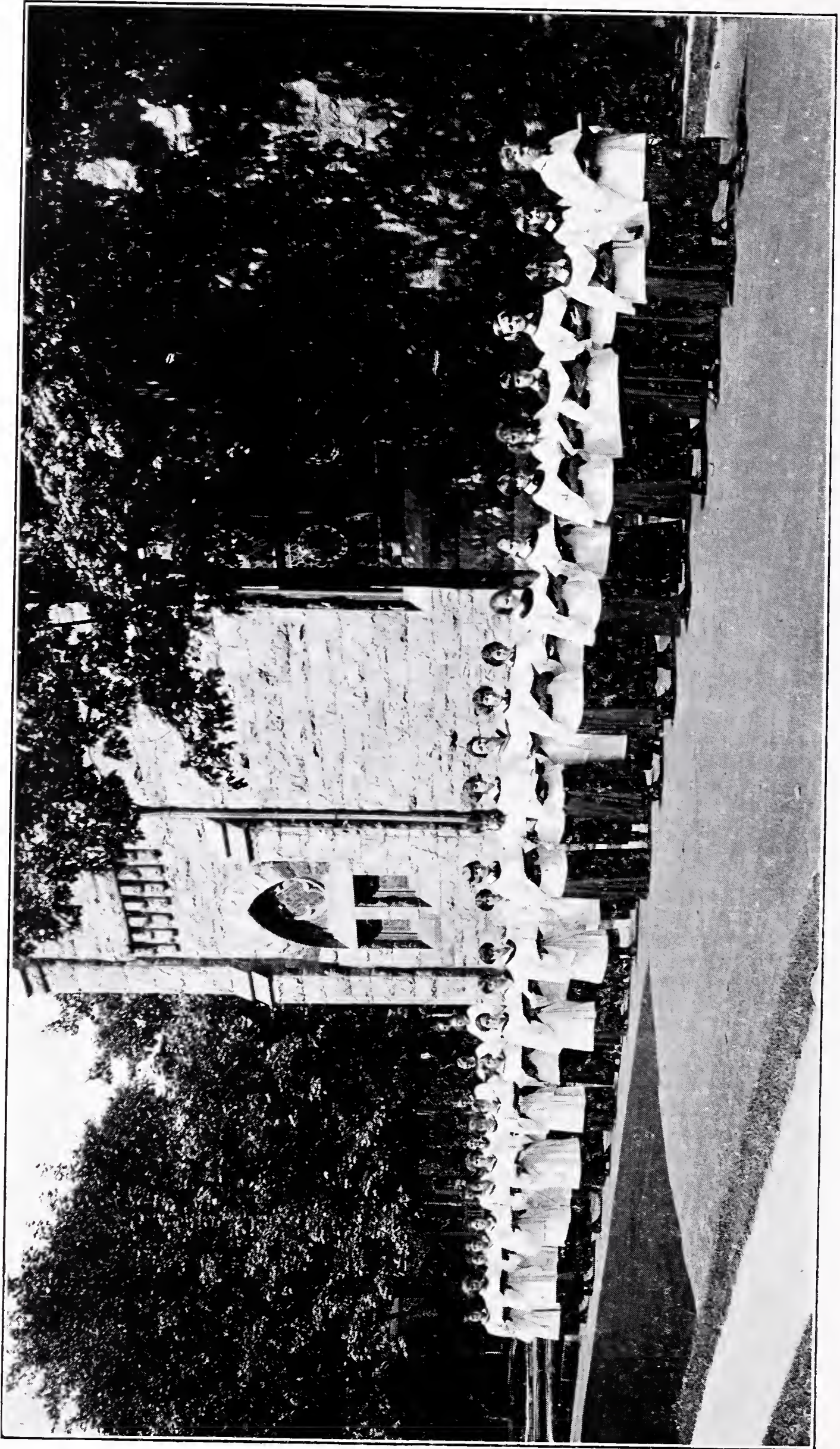
The original Parsonage, first occupied by Rev. Wesley Robertson and family.



The present Parsonage, 1889, first occupied by Rev. C. S. Ryman and family.

THE MINISTERS OF ONE HUNDRED YEARS

BARTHOLOMEW WEED AND JAMES McLAUREN	- -	1823
JOHN CREAMER AND ISAAC WIRMER	- - -	1824
JOHN WALKER AND RICHARD PETHERBRIDGE	-	1825-1826
THOMAS DAVIS AND WILLIAM H. BULL	- - -	1827
JOHN WALKER AND JAMES MOORE	- - -	1828
JOHN FINLEY AND M. LACOST	- - -	1829
JOHN FINLEY AND JAMES H. McFARLAND	- - -	1830
RICHARD PETHERBRIDGE AND JOHN BUCKLEY	-	1831
THOMAS J. THOMPSON	- - - - -	1832
CHARLES FORD	- - - - -	1833
JOHN L. SWAIN	- - - - -	1834
J. L. LENHART	- - - - -	1835
JEFFERSON LEWIS	- - - - -	1836
JAMES HEVENER AND J. M. TUTTLE	- - -	1837-1838
WILLIAM HANLEY AND JAMES WHITE	- - -	1839
ABRAHAM K. STREET AND GEORGE HITCHINGS	-	1840
ABRAHAM K. STREET AND WASHINGTON THOMAS	-	1841
JAMES W. McDOUGALL AND T. T. CANFIELD	- -	1842
EDWARD PAGE AND JOSIAH F. CANFIELD	- - -	1843
EDWARD SAUNDERS	- - - - -	1844
CALEB A. LIPPENCOTT	- - - - -	1845-1846
WESLEY ROBERTSON	- - - - -	1847-1848
JOSEPH ASHBROOK	- - - - -	1849-1850
J. W. McDOUGALL (2nd term)	- - - - -	1851-1852
J. P. DAILY	- - - - -	1853-1854
FLETCHER LUMIS	- - - - -	1855-1856
SYLVESTER ARMSTRONG	- - - - -	1857
THOMAS WALTERS	- - - - -	1858-1859
GILBERT VANHORNE	- - - - -	1860-1861
SYLVESTER H. OPDYKE	- - - - -	1862-1863
J. P. DAILY (2nd term)	- - - - -	1864-1866
DAVID WALTERS	- - - - -	1867-1869
ALBERT H. BROWN	- - - - -	1870-1871
GILBERT H. WINANS	- - - - -	1872-1874
SAMUEL J. MORRIS	- - - - -	1875
THOMAS E. GORDON	- - - - -	1876-1878
RICHARD JOHNS	- - - - -	1879-1881
SAMUEL B. ROONEY	- - - - -	1882-1884
FRANCIS A. MASON	- - - - -	1885-1887
CHARLES S. RYMAN	- - - - -	1888-1890
GILBERT C. MOULSDALE	- - - - -	1891-1895
WESLEY MARTIN	- - - - -	1896-1899
WILLIAM C. O'DONNELL	- - - - -	1900-1901
PERRY C. BASCOM	- - - - -	1902-1905
CHARLES S. WOODRUFF	- - - - -	1906-1911
JOHN H. E. SCHULTZ	- - - - -	1912-1914
AUSTIN E. ARMSTRONG	- - - - -	1915-1920
CHARLES M. W. LEE	- - - - -	1921
A. L. FRETZ	- - - - -	1922



Methodist Senior Choir with Junior Choristers, September 9, 1923.

Program of Services

Celebrating the One Hundredth Anniversary

OF THE

Flemington Methodist Episcopal Church

SEPTEMBER THIRTIETH TO OCTOBER SEVENTH

NINETEEN HUNDRED TWENTY-THREE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SESSION WITH ADULT BIBLE CLASSES, 10 A. M.
MORNING WORSHIP, 11 O'CLOCK.

ORGAN PRELUDE—LargoHandel

PROCESSIONAL—Hymn 207

THE APOSTLES' CREED.

PRAYER—Rev. A. C. Apgar.

ANTHEM—Build Thee More Stately MansionsMark Andrews

PSALTER—Thirty-ninth Sunday Morning.

GLORIA PATRI

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

OFFERTORY—ElevationC. Saint Saens

HYMN 458.

SERMON—Dr. James Henry MacDonald, Supt. of Elizabeth District.
Subject, "Seeing God."

RECESSIONAL—Hymn 304.

BENEDICTION.

ORGAN POSTLUDE—March PontificaleG. Lemmens

EPWORTH LEAGUE DEVOTIONAL SERVICE, 6.45 P. M.

LEADER—Miss Jennie Plum.

TOPIC—"To Serve the Present Age."

EVENING WORSHIP, 7.30 P. M.

ORGAN PRELUDE—PastoralH. Alexander Matthews

HYMN 118.

PRAYER.

ANTHEM—The Radiant MornH. H. Woodward

SCRIPTURE READING.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

OFFERTORY—Offertory in ET. Dubois

HYMN 193.

SERMON—Rev. Austin E. Armstrong, (1915-1920).
Subject, "The Spotless Church."

HYMN 217.

ORGAN POSTLUDE—Fugue from Sonata PontificaleLemmens

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1st.

CHURCH RECEPTION, Monday Afternoon at four.

GREETINGS—Mrs. J. B. Case, representing the Women of the Church.

GREETINGS—Mrs. J. W. Sharp, representing the Women of Flemington.

GREETINGS—Mrs. J. H. MacDonald, representing the Women of the Elizabeth District.

ADDRESS—"The Church Woman"—Mrs. Ada C. Fisher, District Secretary of the Woman's Home Missionary Society.

SOCIAL HOUR.

CHURCH SUPPER, 6.30 O'CLOCK.

Dr. William C. O'Donnell, (1900-1901) Toastmaster. Reminiscences by Dr. O'Donnell and other former Pastors.

EVENING, 8 P. M.

ORGAN SELECTION—FanfareLemmens

TRIO—The Angel, Reubenstein—Mrs. Glazer, Miss Marjorie Case, Miss Hazel Pedrick.

LECTURE—Dr. Charles S. Ryman (1887-1889).

Subject, "Ministerial Mistakes and Mishaps."

ORGAN POSTLUDE—Gavotte in E FlatMartin Roeder

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3rd, 7.30 P. M.

ANNIVERSARY PRAYER MEETING AND CLASS MEETING.

LEADER—Rev. Perry C. Bascom (1902-1905).

SOLOIST—Miss Hazel Pedrick.

The history of the Class Meeting led for many years by Brother Asher B. Stout will be given at this meeting. The members of Brother Stout's Class will be the special guests of the evening.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5th, 7.30 P. M.

CHOIR NIGHT.

ORGAN PRELUDE—Adagio in A FlatVolekmar

PROCESSIONAL—Hymn 78.

INVOCATION.

HYMN 32.

ADDRESS—Miss Elizabeth Vosseller—History of the Children's Choir.

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM.

a. DUET—God Make My Life a Little LightConant
Ruth Dewey (Mrs. J. Wilson), Bessie Hann (Mrs. Wm. Saunders).

b. ANTHEM—Lift Thine EyesMendelssohn

ADDRESS—Dr. Francis A. Mason (1885-1887).

Subject, "How the Church was Built and How Song Helped Rear the Walls."

OFFERTORY—RhapsodyC. Saint Saens

ANTHEM—Senior Choir—How Lovely are the Messengers—Mendelssohn

HYMN 179.

RECESSIONAL—Hymn 639.

ORGAN POSTLUDE—Fugue from Pastoral SonataJ. Rheinberger

RECEPTION.

The guests of the evening are former choir members and former church organists.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SESSION WITH ADULT BIBLE CLASSES, 10 A. M.

MORNING WORSHIP, 11 O'CLOCK.

ORGAN PRELUDE—Second Movement from Organ Sonata No. 4.

PROCESSIONAL—Hymn 416.

THE APOSTLES' CREED.

PRAYER.

ANTHEM—Light in DarknessCyril Jenkins.

PSALTER—Fortieth Sunday Morning.

GLORIA PATRI.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

OFFERTORY—Offertory in E FlatT. Dubois

HYMN 208.

SERMON—Rev. Luther B. Wilson, D. D., L. L. D., Bishop New York Area.

PRAYER.

RECESSIONAL—Hymn 38.

BENEDICTION.

POSTLUDE—Finale from Organ Sonata No. 4:A. Guilmont

EPWORTH LEAGUE DEVOTIONAL SERVICE, 6.45 O'CLOCK.

LEADER—Miss Claire McLain.

TOPIC "The Naturalness of Prayer."

EVENING WORSHIP, 7.30 O'CLOCK—COMMUNITY NIGHT.

"THE CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY."

ORGAN PRELUDE—First Movement Organ Sonata No. 4 in D Minor.

SONG SERVICE—Led by Mr. John E. Fisher, Cranford, N. J.

PRAYER—Rev. Edward Miller, Pastor Flemington Baptist Church.

ANTHEM—Lift Up Your HeadsHopkins

PSALTER—Fortieth Sunday Evening—Rev. W. B. Sheddan, Acting Pastor, Flemington Presbyterian Church.

GLORIA PATRI.

SCRIPTURE LESSON—Rev. J. L. Smith, Pastor Flemington A. M. E. Church.

OFFERTORY—Communion in E MinorBatiste

HYMN—"Faith of Our Fathers"—read by C. V. Weiler, representing Calvary Episcopal Church.

GREETINGS—Mayor B. F. Dewey.

"THE EARLY DAYS"—Mr. M. L. Glazer.

"FLEMINGTON UNION SERVICES"—Mr. Harry W. Bellis, Baptist Church.

"INFLUENCE OF THE CHURCH IN MUSIC"—Mr. Norman Landis, Presbyterian Church.

HYMN—No. 210.

PRAYER AND BENEDICTION—Father Edward C. Mannion, Church of St. Magdelene de Pazzi.

ORGAN POSTLUDE—Coronation March-JSvensen

CHURCH DIRECTORY

BISHOP—REV. LUTHER B. WILSON, D. D., L. L.D., 150 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y.

DISTRICT SUPT.—REV. JAS. H. MacDONALD, D. D., 27 Hillside Road, Elizabeth, N. J.

PASTOR—REV. A. L. FRETZ, 29 Spring Street, Flemington, N. J.

OFFICIAL BOARD.

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D. S. HALL, Vice President

WILLIAM J. CASE, Secretary

C. L. H. APGAR, Treasurer of Current Expenses

M. L. GLAZER, Financial Secretary

J. S. COOLEY, Treasurer of Benevolences

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STEWARDS—D. S. Hall, Recording Steward; M. L. Glazer, District Steward; F. J. Bodine, C. L. H. Apgar, W. S. Buchanan, A. J. Burkett, A. B. Stout, J. S. Cooley, W. V. Fisher, Martin Alles, E. F. Stevenson, Earl Butterfoss, C. Ryman Herr, A. LaMar Anderson.

The Official Board meets the first Tuesday of each month.

CHURCH PROPERTY COMMITTEE—S. F. Case, D. S. Hall and W. H. Bodine.

FINANCE COMMITTEE—M. L. Glazer, D. S. Hall, S. F. Case, F. J. Bodine and E. F. Stevenson.

CHURCH MUSIC COMMITTEE—W. J. Case, Mrs. M. L. Glazer and D. S. Hall.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD

D. S. HALL, Superintendent.

EDWIN CASE, Secretary.

Meets 8.45 p. m. First Wednesday of each month.

EPWORTH LEAGUE

MISS RUTH CASE, President.

MISS BESSIE STULL, secretary.

Meets Second Monday of each month.

LADIES' AID SOCIETY

MRS. J. B. CASE, President.

MRS. J. A. BULLOCK, Secretary.

Meets 3 p. m. Last Monday of each month.

WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

MRS. A. B. C. BODINE, President.

MRS. J. A. BULLOCK, Secretary.

Meets 3 p. m. First Wednesday of each month.

WOMAN'S HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY

MRS. J. S. COOLEY, President.

MRS. J. B. CASE, Secretary.

Meets 3 p. m., Third Wednesday of each month.

YOUNG WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

MRS. EARL BUTTERFOSS, Leader.

MISS MAUD McLAIN, President.

MISS CLAIRE McLAIN, Secretary.

Meets First Monday of each month.

WOODRUFF BIBLE CLASS

MRS. WILLIAM PORTER, President.

MRS. WILLIAM D. MOORE, Secretary.

Meets First Tuesday of each month.

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

WILLIAM V. FISHER, President.

A. B. C. BODINE, Secretary.

Meets Second Tuesday of each month.

JUNIOR EPWORTH LEAGUE

MRS. A. L. FRETZ, Superintendent.

Meets 3.45 p. m., every Thursday.

CHOIR

MR. GEORGE D. KRAUER, (Substitute), Organist and Choir Leader.

SEXTON

B. D. N. CARTER, 44 Spring Street.



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